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J C PATENTS, INC. 4 VENTURE, SUITE 250 IRVINE, CA 92618			EXAMINER SHAW, YIN CHEN	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

mn

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/666,802

Applicant(s)

HSUAN, MIN-CHIH

Examiner

Yin-Chen Shaw

Art Unit

2135

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 September 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This written action is responding to the amendment dated on 09/06/2007.
2. Claims 1-48 are as original.
3. Claims 1-48 have been submitted for examination.
4. Claims 1-48 have been examined and rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1, 5-7, 9-26, 30-32, 34-41, and 45-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Padole et al. (U.S. Patent 6,993,664).

a. Referring to Claims 1 and 26:

As per Claim 1, Padole et al. disclose a system for detecting an illegal loading of a software with a software serial number and executing the software thereafter, the system comprising:

a personal identity circuit for holding a software serial number of a software and generating an inspection code in installing the software **[(lines 21-23, Col. 2; lines 59-60, Col. 4 from Padole et al.)]**; and

a communication control interface having a communication equipment serial number, the communication control interface is provided for connecting the personal identity circuit with a new product registration center, therefore the new product registration center reset the inspection code according to the software serial number and the communication equipment serial number **[(lines 27-32, Col. 2 and lines 43-60, Col. 8)]**;

wherein the software automatically checks the inspection code before executing the software, when the inspection code is in a legal user state, executing of the software permitted, when the inspection code is in an illegal user state, executing of the software is terminated immediately **[(lines 41-46, Col. 9; lines 57-67, Col. 5; lines 1-7, Col. 6 from Padole et al.)]**.

As per Claim 26, it encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 1. Therefore, it rejected with the same rationale as of Claim 1.

b. Referring to Claims 5, 30, and 45:

As per Claim 5, Padole et al. disclose the system of claim 1, wherein the communication control interface comprises a network interface card **[(lines 57-60, Col. 8 from Padole et al.)]**.

As per Claim 30, the rejection of Claim 26 is incorporated. In addition, Claim 30 encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 5. Therefore, it rejected with the same rationale as of Claim 5.

As per Claim 45, the rejection of Claim 41 is incorporated. In addition, Claim 45 encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 5. Therefore, it rejected with the same rationale as of Claim 5.

c. Referring to Claims 6, 31, and 46:

As per Claim 6, Padole et al. disclose the system of claim 1, wherein the communication control interface comprises a wireless communication network **[(lines 50-53, Col. 7 from Padole et al.)]**.

As per Claim 31, the rejection of Claim 26 is incorporated. In addition, Claim 31 encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 6. Therefore, it rejected with the same rationale as of Claim 6.

As per Claim 46, the rejection of Claim 41 is incorporated. In addition, Claim 46 encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 6. Therefore, it rejected with the same rationale as of Claim 6.

d. Referring to Claims 7, 32, and 47:

As per Claim 7, Padole et al. disclose the system of claim 1, wherein the communication control interface comprises a global positioning system **[(lines 50-53, Col. 7 from Padole et al.)]**.

As per Claim 32, the rejection of Claim 26 is incorporated. In addition, Claim 32 encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 7. Therefore, it rejected with the same rationale as of Claim 7.

As per Claim 47, the rejection of Claim 41 is incorporated. In addition, Claim 47 encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 7. Therefore, it rejected with the same rationale as of Claim 7.

e. Referring to Claim 9:

As per Claim 9, Padole et al. disclose the system of claim 1, wherein the personal identity circuit further comprises:

a microprocessor having a memory unit for generating the inspection code when installing the software and a non-volatile memory unit coupled to the microprocessor for holding the inspection code **[(lines 21-23, Col. 2; lines 1-5 and 59-60, Col. 4; Figs. 1 and 2 from Padole et al.)]**; and

a media access controller coupled to the non-volatile memory unit and the communication control interface for transmitting the inspection code to the new product registration center via the communication control

interface [(lines 54-63, Col. 6; lines 1-6, Col. 9; Figs. 1 and 2 from Padole et al.)].

f. Referring to Claim 10:

As per Claim 10, Padole et al. disclose the system of claim 9, wherein the memory unit comprises an erasable programmable read-only-memory [(Fig. 1 from Padole et al.)].

g. Referring to Claim 11:

As per Claim 11, Padole et al. disclose the system of claim 9, wherein the memory unit comprises an electrically erasable programmable read-only-memory [(Fig. 1 from Padole et al.)].

h. Referring to Claim 12:

As per Claim 12, Padole et al. disclose the system of claim 9, wherein the memory unit comprises a flash memory [(Fig. 1 from Padole et al.)].

i. Referring to Claim 13:

As per Claim 13, Padole et al. disclose the system of claim 9, wherein the memory unit comprises a static random access memory [(Fig. 1 from Padole et al.)].

j. Referring to Claim 14:

As per Claim 14, Padole et al. disclose the system of claim 9, wherein the memory unit comprises a dynamic random access memory [(Fig. 1 from Padole et al.)].

k. Referring to Claim 15:

As per Claim 15, Padole et al. disclose the system of claim 9, wherein the non-volatile memory unit comprises an erasable programmable read-only-memory **[(Fig. 1 from Padole et al.)]**.

l. Referring to Claim 16:

As per Claim 16, Padole et al. disclose the system of claim 9, wherein the non-volatile memory unit comprises an electrically erasable read-only-memory **[(Fig. 1 from Padole et al.)]**.

m. Referring to Claim 17:

As per Claim 17, Padole et al. disclose the system of claim 9, wherein the non-volatile memory comprises a flash memory **[(Fig. 1 from Padole et al.)]**.

n. Referring to Claim 18:

As per Claim 18, the rejection of Claim 1 is incorporated. In addition, Claim 18 encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 9. Therefore, it rejected with the same rationale as of Claim 9.

o. Referring to Claims 19 and 34:

As per Claim 19, Padole et al. disclose a chip in a system for detecting an illegal loading of a software with a software serial number and executing the software thereafter, the chip comprising:

a microprocessor for generating an inspection code when installing a software having a software serial number and a non-volatile memory unit coupled to the microprocessor for holding the inspection code **[(lines 21-**

23, Col. 2; lines 1-5 and 59-60, Col. 4; Figs. 1 and 2 from Padole et al.));

a media access controller coupled to the non-volatile memory unit and a communication control interface for transmitting the inspection code and a communication equipment serial number to a new product registration center via the communication control interface such that the new product registration center resets the inspection code according to the received software serial number and the communication equipment serial number, wherein the software automatically checks the inspection code before executing the software, when the inspection code is in a legal user state, executing of the software is permitted, when the inspection code is in an illegal user state, executing of the software is terminated immediately **[(lines 61-67, Col. 8 and lines 1-6 and 41-46, Col. 9; lines 57-67, Col. 5; lines 1-7, Col. 6; Figs. 1 and 2 from Padole et al.)]**.

As per Claim 34, it encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 19. Therefore, it rejected with the same rationale as of Claim 19.

p. Referring to Claims 20 and 35:

As per Claim 20, Padole et al. disclose the chip of claim 19, wherein the communication control interface comprises a network interface card **[(lines 57-60, Col. 8 from Padole et al.)]**.

As per Claim 35, the rejection of Claim 34 is incorporated. In addition, Claim 35 encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 20. Therefore, it rejected with the same rationale as of Claim 20.

q. Referring to Claims 21 and 36:

As per Claim 21, Padole et al. disclose the chip of claim 19, wherein the communication control interface comprises a wireless communication network **[(lines 50-53, Col. 7 from Padole et al.)]**.

As per Claim 36, the rejection of Claim 34 is incorporated. In addition, Claim 36 encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 21. Therefore, it rejected with the same rationale as of Claim 21.

r. Referring to Claims 22 and 37:

As per Claim 22, Padole et al. disclose the chip of claim 19, wherein the communication control interface comprises a global positioning system **[(lines 50-53, Col. 7 from Padole et al.)]**.

As per Claim 37, the rejection of Claim 34 is incorporated. In addition, Claim 37 encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 22. Therefore, it rejected with the same rationale as of Claim 22.

s. Referring to Claims 23 and 38:

As per Claim 23, Padole et al. disclose the chip of claim 19, wherein the non-volatile memory unit comprises an erasable programmable read-only-memory **[(Fig. 1 from Padole et al.)]**.

As per Claim 38, the rejection of Claim 34 is incorporated. In addition, Claim 38 encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 23. Therefore, it rejected with the same rationale as of Claim 23.

t. Referring to Claims 24 and 39:

As per Claim 24, Padole et al. disclose the chip of claim 19, wherein the non-volatile memory unit comprises an electrically erasable programmable read-only-memory **[(Fig. 1 from Padole et al.)]**.

As per Claim 39, the rejection of Claim 34 is incorporated. In addition, Claim 39 encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 24. Therefore, it rejected with the same rationale as of Claim 24.

u. Referring to Claims 25 and 40:

As per Claim 25, Padole et al. disclose the chip of claim 19, wherein the non-volatile memory unit comprises a flash memory **[(Fig. 1 from Padole et al.)]**.

As per Claim 40, the rejection of Claim 34 is incorporated. In addition, Claim 40 encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 25. Therefore, it rejected with the same rationale as of Claim 25.

v. Referring to Claim 41:

As per Claim 41, Padole et al. disclose a software registration center linked to a hardware system for detecting an illegal loading of a software with a soft-ware serial number into a computer and executing the software thereafter, wherein the software registration center has a database with a plurality of datasets **[(lines 32-38, Col. 9 from Padole et al.)]**, when the software registration center receives the software serial number and the communication equipment serial number, the software serial number and the communication equipment serial number are compared with the datasets **[(lines 27-32, Col. 2 and lines 43-60, Col. 8 from Padole et al.)]**, an inspection code stored in the computer is then reset according to the software serial number and the communication equipment serial number, before the computer is able to execute the software, the software automatically checks the inspection code, when the inspection code is in a legal user state, executing of the software is permitted, when the inspection code is in an illegal user state, executing of the software is terminated immediately **[(lines 41-46, Col. 9; lines 57-67, Col. 5; lines 1-7, Col. 6 from Padole et al.)]**.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 2, 4, 27, 29, 42, and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Padole et al. (U.S. Patent 6,993,664) and further in view of Pearce et al. (U.S. Patent 6,243,468).

a. Referring to Claims 2, 27, and 42:

As per Claim 2, Padole et al. disclose the system of claim 1, wherein the new product registration center further comprises a database having a plurality of datasets, when the software serial number and the communication equipment serial number is received by the new product registration center **[(lines 32-38, Col. 9 from Padole et al.)]**. Padole et al. do not expressly disclose the remaining limitation of the claim. However, Pearce et al. disclose the software serial number and the communication equipment serial number are compared with the datasets, when identical software serial number and communication equipment serial number is not found among the datasets, the software serial number and the communication equipment serial number are

written down as a new dataset in the database and then the inspection code is reset to the legal user state **[(lines 53-65, Col. 8 from Pearce et al.)]**. Padole et al. and Pearce et al. are analogous art because they are from similar technology relating to software distribution and licensing. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify Padole et al. with Pearce et al. since one would have been motivated to reduce the opportunity for piracy and illicit use of software products (lines 36-37, Col. 2 from Pearce et al.). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Padole et al. and Pearce et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 2.

As per Claim 27, the rejection of Claim 26 is incorporated. In addition, Claim 27 encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 2. Therefore, it rejected with the same rationale as of Claim 2.

As per Claim 42, the rejection of Claim 41 is incorporated. In addition, Claim 42 encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 2. Therefore, it rejected with the same rationale as of Claim 2.

b. Referring to Claims 4, 29, and 44:

As per Claim 4, Padole et al. disclose the system of claim 1, wherein the new product registration center further comprises a database having a plurality of datasets, when the software serial number and the

communication equipment serial number is received by the new product registration center, the software serial number and the communication equipment serial number are compared with the datasets **[(lines 32-38, Col. 9 from Padole et al.)]**. Padole et al. do not expressly disclose the remaining limitation of the claim. However, Pearce et al. disclose when the software serial number is found within one of the datasets but a communication equipment serial number in the one of the datasets differs from the received communication equipment serial number, the inspection code is reset to the illegal user state **[(lines 3-14, Col. 9 from Pearce et al.)]**. Padole et al. do not expressly disclose the remaining limitation of the claim. However, Pearce et al. disclose the software serial number and the communication equipment serial number are compared with the datasets, when identical software serial number and communication equipment serial number is not found among the datasets, the software serial number and the communication equipment serial number are written down as a new dataset in the database and then the inspection code is reset to the legal user state **[(lines 53-65, Col. 8 from Pearce et al.)]**. Padole et al. and Pearce et al. are analogous art because they are from similar technology relating to software distribution and licensing. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify Padole et al. with Pearce et al. since one would have been motivated to

reduce the opportunity for piracy and illicit use of software products (lines 36-37, Col. 2 from Pearce et al.). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Padole et al. and Pearce et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 4.

As per Claim 29, the rejection of Claim 26 is incorporated. In addition, Claim 29 encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 4. Therefore, it rejected with the same rationale as of Claim 4.

As per Claim 44, the rejection of Claim 41 is incorporated. In addition, Claim 44 encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 4. Therefore, it rejected with the same rationale as of Claim 4.

7. Claims 8, 33, and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Padole et al. (U.S. Patent 6,993,664) and further in view of Nash (U.S. Patent 6,449,645).

a. Referring to Claims 8, 33, and 48:

As per Claim 8, Padole et al. disclose the system of claim 1. Padole et al. further disclose wherein after the new product registration center reset the inspection code to the legal user state according to the software serial number and the communication equipment serial number

as in Claim 1. Padole et al. do not expressly disclose the software manufacture system and connected to a software manufacturer system for reporting a software registration to the software manufacturer system. However, Nash discloses the software (manufacturing) system is informed of the license information based on the monitoring process by the computer routines **[(lines 53-54, Col. 5 from Nash)]**. Padole et al. and Nash are analogous art because they are from similar technology relating to software distribution and licensing. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify Padole et al. with Nash since one would have been motivated to provide a method for monitoring whether software or other digitized information has been copied (lines 15-17, Col. 2 from Nash). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Padole et al. and Nash to obtain the invention as specified in claim 8.

As per Claim 33, the rejection of Claim 26 is incorporated. In addition, Claim 33 encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 8. Therefore, it rejected with the same rationale as of Claim 8.

As per Claim 48, the rejection of Claim 41 is incorporated. In addition, Claim 48 encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 8. Therefore, it rejected with the same rationale as of Claim 8.

8. Claims 3, 28, and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Padole et al. (U.S. Patent 6,993,664) and Pearce et al. (U.S. Patent 6,243,468), and further in view of Nash (U.S. Patent 6,449,645).

a. Referring to Claims 3, 28, and 43:

As per Claim 3, Padole et al. and Pearce et al. disclose the system of Claim 2. As per Claim 8, Padole et al. disclose the system of Claim 1. Padole et al. and Pearce et al. further disclose wherein after the new product registration center reset the inspection code to the legal user state according to the software serial number and the communication equipment serial number as in Claim 1. Padole et al. do not expressly disclose the software manufacture system and connected to a software manufacturer system for reporting a software registration to the software manufacturer system. However, Nash discloses the software (manufacturing) system is informed of the license information based on the monitoring process by the computer routines **[(lines 53-54, Col. 5 from Nash)]**. Padole et al., Pearce et al., and Nash are analogous art because they are from similar technology relating to software distribution and licensing. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify Padole et al. and Pearce et al. with Nash since one would have been motivated to provide a method for monitoring whether software or other digitized information

has been copied (lines 15-17, Col. 2 from Nash). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Padole et al. and Pearce et al. with Nash to obtain the invention as specified in claim 3.

As per Claim 28, the rejection of Claim 26 is incorporated. In addition, Claim 28 encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 3. Therefore, it rejected with the same rationale as of Claim 3.

As per Claim 43, the rejection of Claim 41 is incorporated. In addition, Claim 43 encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 3. Therefore, it rejected with the same rationale as of Claim 3.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's amendments, filed on Sep. 06, 2007, have claims 1-48 are as original.
10. Applicant's remark, filed on Sep. 06, 2007, argues Padole fails to teach "a personal identity circuit for **holding a software serial number** of a software and **generating an inspecting code** in installing the software" and "**the new product registration center reset the inspection code according to the software serial number and the communication equipment serial number**". In particular, Applicant argues that Padole fails to any resetting operation of the

PID, especially the PID (inspection code) according to the software serial number and the communication equipment serial number. Therefore, Padole does not deem to anticipate the claimed invention, as set forth in claim 1, 26, and similarly in claim 19.

11. Applicant's remark has been fully considered, but found not persuasive based on the reason below.

Regarding to Argument (1):

In response to Applicant's argument that Padole fails to the limitations regarding "a personal identity circuit for holding a software serial number of a software and generating an inspecting code in installing the software" and "the new product registration center reset the inspection code according to the software serial number and the communication equipment serial number", Examiner respectfully disagrees with it. Padole specifically teaches that product key is a "secure" representation of the product ID in lines 8-9, Col. 2. That is, the product key represents the software serial number. Padole further teaches that the PID is generated from the product key and typically includes a backend product code (BPC), the channel ID, a sequence number and a random number in lines 24-26 Col. 2. The PID, along with the hardware ID (H/W ID), is included in the installation ID and transmitted to an activation authority (i.e., product registration center) for activation purpose (see lines 21-23, Col. 2). The PID, according Padole, is used by the activation authority to apply various unlocking rules to

determine whether or not the license should be issued, and the PID ties to the license to the current installation of the software product (lines 41-42, Col. 2). Unlocking rules allow the setting of an unlock limit based on various combination of the BPC, channel ID and country, and the unlock limit is the number of unlocks which can be issued against a PID (lines 27-30, Col. 10). That is, the PID is associated with the installation of the software in terms of the license, and when the PID has been used by the activation authority, it is used to determine if unlocking rule (i.e., setting the unlock limit of the PID, resetting the unlock limit of the PID as license renews, etc...) (see lines 7-14, Col. 9; lines 27-32, Col. 10; lines 41-45, Col. 2). Therefore, readjusting/resetting of the PID is associated with the number of unlocks embedded with the PID and/or license renewal (e.g., renewal the usage and number of unlocks).

Based on the reason stated above, it is believed that Padole teaches the argued limitation regarding reset the inspection code. Applicant is reminded that modification to clarify the limitation regarding how rest the inspection code in relationship to the software serial number and communication equipment serial number in the claim language is necessary for further consideration.

Conclusion

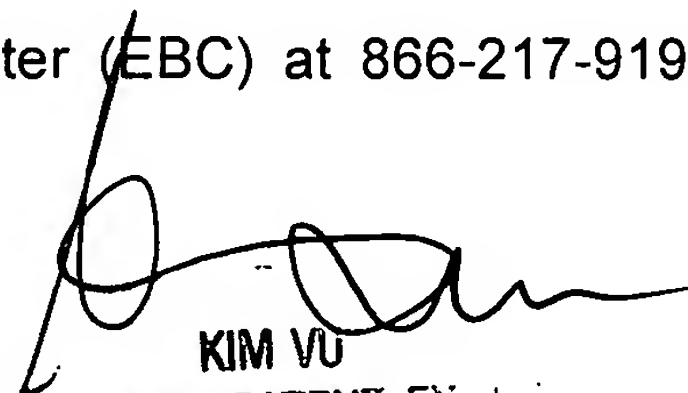
12. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

- a. Sprong et al. (U.S. Patent 6,134,659) disclose the present invention provides a new and novel system and method for protecting a computer software program from unauthorized use and/or copying. In a preferred embodiment of the invention, each embodiment of the storage medium containing the software also includes means for: (1) inhibiting use of the software unless a valid authorization code for use has been received from a remote authorization unit, (2) generating, storing and retrieving a serial number uniquely associated with the particular host computer on which the software is to be used, (3) inhibiting transfer from one host computer to another of the software unless a valid deauthorization code has been received from a remote authorization unit, (4) uniquely identifying each

embodiment of the storage medium, thereby making it possible to individually track each embodiment of the storage medium and to recognize when such an embodiment may have been copied before its installation on a host computer or installed on multiple host computers, and (5) preventing hackers from inputting an unlimited number of authorization codes in an attempt to enable use of the software.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yin-Chen Shaw whose telephone number is 571-272-8593. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:15 to 4:15 M-F. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Yen Vu can be reached on 571-272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


KIM VU
ELECTRONIC BUSINESS CENTER
PATENT EXAMINER